

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 4 and 6.

Claims 1 and 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Presently Amended) An assay to identify ~~modulators~~ inhibitors of the Ubp/Vpu interaction, comprising the steps of
- (a) exposing Vpu and Ubp together in the presence of a candidate inhibitor under conditions in which Vpu and Ubp can interact when ~~an~~ the inhibitor is not present, wherein Ubp comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 12, 15, 20 and 25 and wherein the exposure is *in vitro* or in a yeast cell, and
 - (b) determining whether Vpu/Ubp interaction occurs, wherein an interaction occurs if a complex of Vpu/Ubp can be isolated or observed.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The assay of claim 3 wherein the interaction is measured *in vitro*.

Claims 6 – 18 (Cancelled)